

# PittDental Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
WINTER 2023

**Merging  
Dentistry  
and the  
Military  
Professions**





**M**ore than 300 alumni, faculty and students from University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine and other Pitt health science schools served more than 1,400 community members during the Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh 2022 clinic, held Aug. 5 and 6 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Nearly 7,000 procedures valued at \$900,000 were provided, totaling about \$700 worth of free services per patient. The two-day dental clinic unites teams of clinical and nonclinical volunteers to serve one purpose: provide free health care to those in the community who need it most.

# PittDental Medicine

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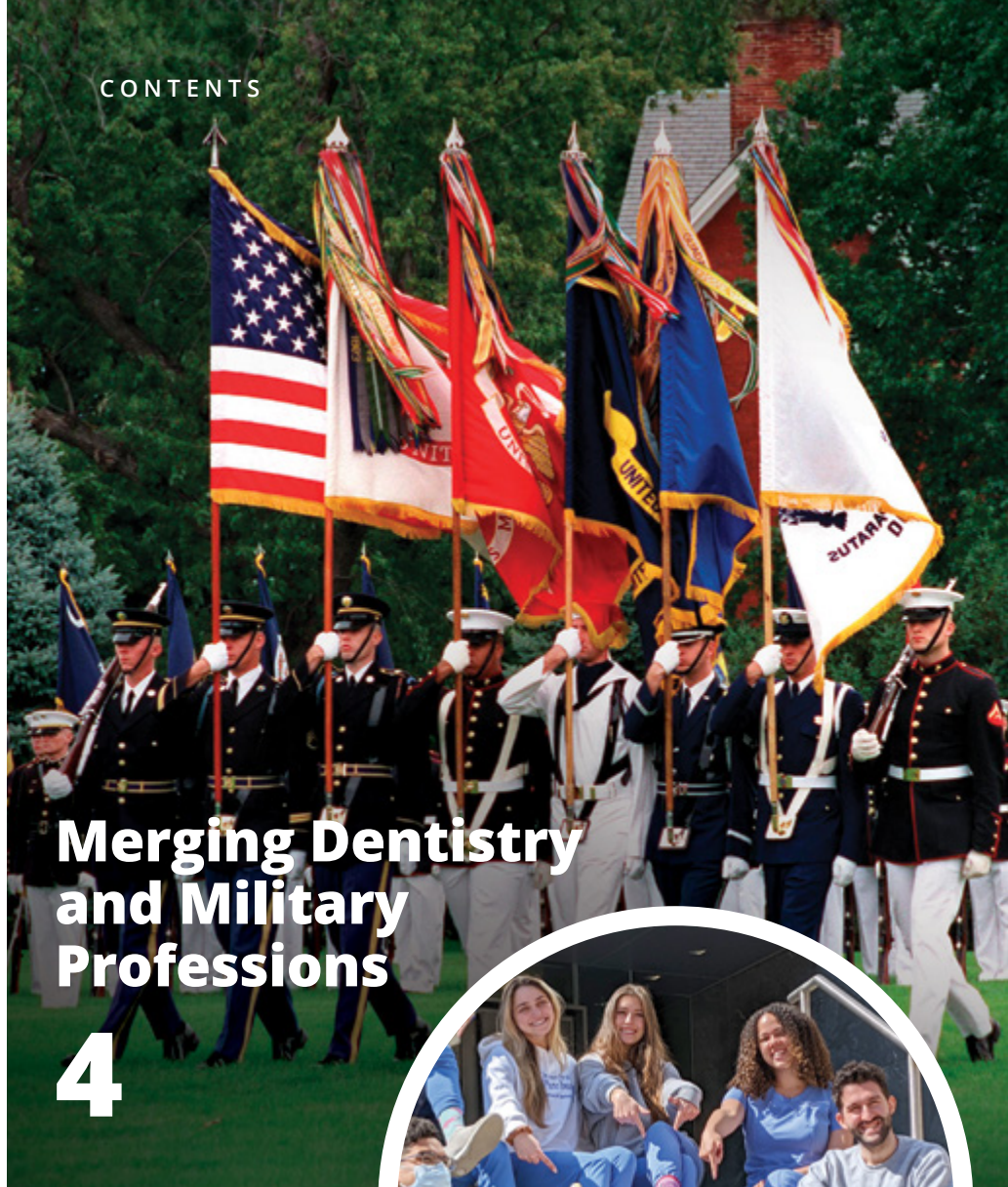
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## Merging Dentistry and Military Professions

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**T**hrough all the years I've been associated with the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, I have had an unshakable sense of pride in our school. I am overwhelmingly proud of what we have overcome and become during our 127 years. During our first 50 years, what was then the Pittsburg Dental College trained dentists to serve in both World Wars, survived the 1918 influenza pandemic, and weathered severe budget cuts during the Great Depression. Through all those challenges, our school remained resilient and dedicated not only to serving faculty, staff, and students but also the patients who entrust us with their care.

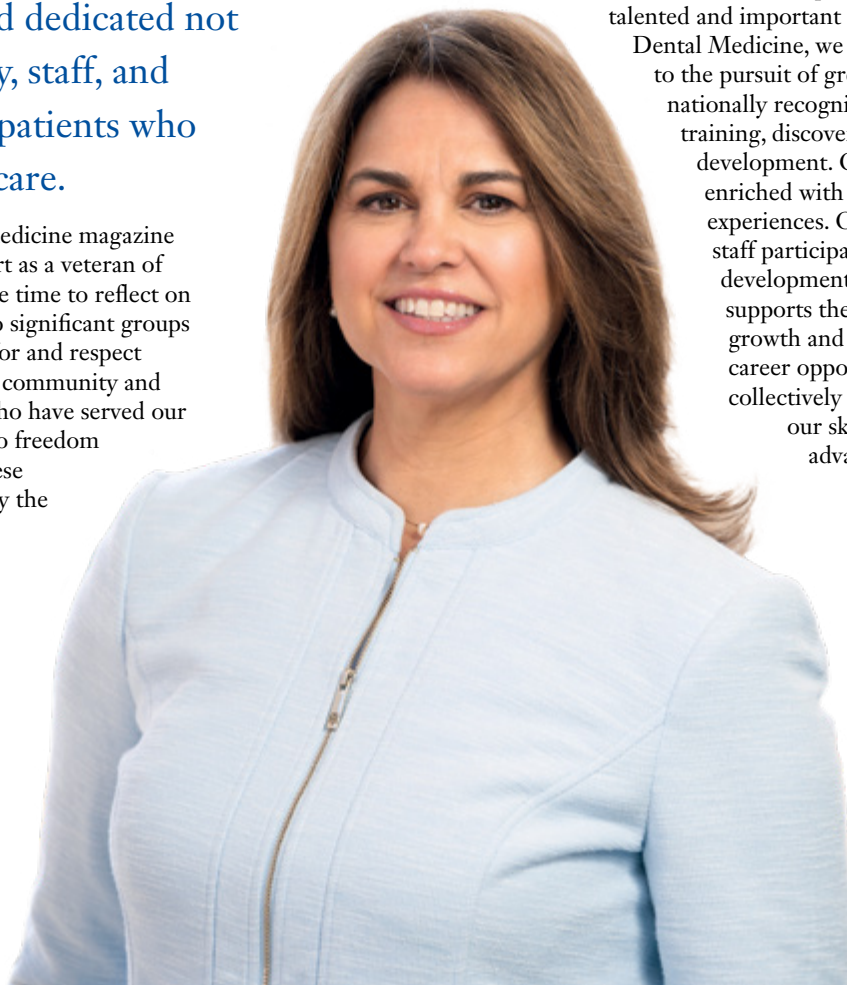
This edition of Pitt Dental Medicine magazine touches a special place in my heart as a veteran of the U.S. Navy. Reading it gave me time to reflect on the strength of my bond with two significant groups of people who I will always care for and respect deeply: the Pitt Dental Medicine community and the dedicated men and women who have served our country and defended our right to freedom in the U.S. military. As I write these words of reflection, I am struck by the

remarkable similarities between these two elite groups. These similarities, I now recognize, likely serve to strengthen my bond with each of them.

If you've ever been blessed to hear firsthand accounts of how our U.S. military personnel serve us in their daily work, you know they are a profoundly special and accomplished group of people. They are relentless in their pursuit of achievement and are dedicated to being the very best they can be. With each endeavor they undertake, they plan their success with great intention and remain committed to pivoting toward discovery and growth. They understand that their elite team is not for everyone, and they painstakingly recruit top-notch performers. They realize that a team made up of diverse individuals is stronger than a single individual effort. They are committed, resilient and will not be broken. They radiate an extraordinary sense of pride for the work they do and pay close attention to how they accomplish it. And, most of all, they have an unwavering mission to selflessly serve others, with humility and gratitude, before themselves.

**Pitt Dental Medicine is rooted in a similar strong belief system to have a lasting, positive impression.**

Likewise, those of us on the Pitt Dental Medicine team make up a sincerely capable, talented and important group. At Pitt Dental Medicine, we are committed to the pursuit of greatness and are nationally recognized for our training, discovery, and professional development. Our students are enriched with abundant clinical experiences. Our faculty and staff participate in leadership development training that supports their professional growth and increases their career opportunities. We collectively strive to enhance our skills, obtain advanced degrees, and



serve our profession as experts in national and international forums. We are leaders in research and science and take full advantage of our collaborations to create translational discoveries that change the way we provide clinical care and improve the lives of our patients.

At Pitt Dental Medicine, we build on the strength of our team through focused recruitment. We invite the best and brightest to be our faculty, staff, and students. We expect challenges. We plan for adversity and how to overcome it. We care for and support each other every day. We realize that the success of our team depends on the work we do as individuals and on the loyalty and support we give one another. We hold that commitment close to our hearts for years, realizing that it was our Pitt Dental Medicine team that made us the proud successes we have become.

At Pitt Dental Medicine, we know that caring for our patients is a privilege we earn, and we feel a deep sense of gratitude as we put our patients' needs above our own.

We step forward ethically and professionally as we celebrate our proud past and our bright future, taking faith in the fact that the legacy of Pitt Dental Medicine will live on for generations to come.

Today, 127 years after its inception, Pitt Dental Medicine stands strong and is leaving a lasting impression on all of us.

With collaborative spirit,



**Marnie Oakley, DMD**  
Interim Dean

“At Pitt Dental Medicine, we know that caring for our patients is a privilege we earn, and we feel a deep sense of gratitude as we put our patients' needs above our own.

We step forward ethically and professionally as we celebrate our proud past and our bright future, taking faith in the fact that the legacy of Pitt Dental Medicine will live on for generations to come.”

—Marnie Oakley



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# Pitt Graduates Merge Dentistry and Military Professions

By Keightley Amen

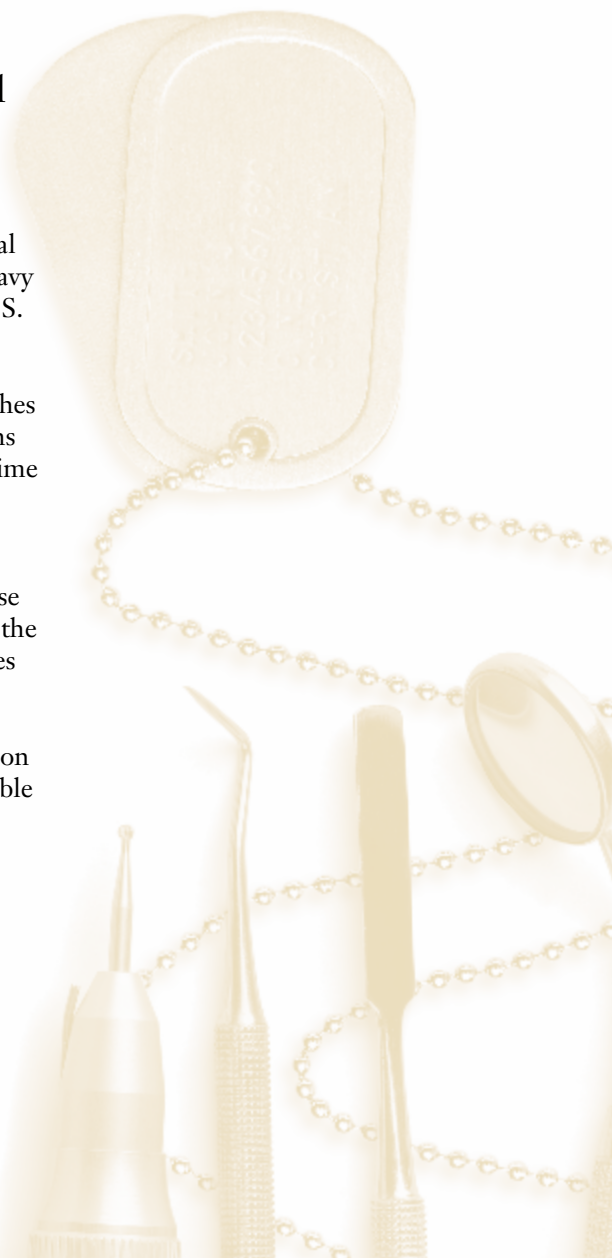
**G**raduates of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine can pursue many paths, such as starting a private practice, pursuing specialty training, or earning an additional advanced degree.

But many students may not be aware that they also can pursue a rather unique path combining two lanes—dental medicine and military service.

That path has been exceptionally successful and rewarding for two Pitt Dental Medicine alumni: Rear Admiral Rick Freedman (DMD '91), chief of the U.S. Navy Dental Corps, and Brigadier General Shan K. Bagby (DMD '93), chief of the U.S. Army Dental Corps.

It's a rare coincidence that two people from the same program at the same educational institution have such high-level, parallel roles in two different branches of the U.S. military. But these two leaders say they've reached such lofty positions thanks, in large part, to the preparation and support they received during their time studying dental medicine at Pitt.

"The practice pattern for dentistry is uniquely suited for military leadership environments. Dentists are trained to work in stressful environments and frequently deal with complex, emergent situations. You have to quickly get a sense of the problem, consider different diagnoses, then develop a plan to take care of the problem—sometimes on the spot. Then you have to execute that plan, oftentimes in a very compressed time frame. And, afterward, you have to perform ongoing assessment and reassessment to make sure that you've achieved your objectives," Freedman says. "Almost every military problem or leadership challenge is based on those same principles: Come in, diagnose the problem, come up with an executable plan, assess your plan, revise as necessary, and continue to do that."



“Almost every military problem or leadership challenge is based on those same principles [as dentistry]: Come in, diagnose the problem, come up with an executable plan, assess your plan, revise as necessary, and continue to do that.”

—Rear Admiral Rick Freedman



## Serving Those Who Serve

As chiefs of their respective dental corps, Bagby and Freedman are responsible for training, organizing, equipping, educating, and assigning dental officers throughout the world to serve members of the military and their families.

“We exist as part of the covenant between the military and the American people, who send their kids, husbands, wives, sisters, and brothers into service and potentially into harm’s way, knowing that if something should happen to them, there’s a medical care system that stands ready to take care of them regardless of whether or not they can pay,” Bagby says.

Freedman adds: “We ask our people to do very challenging things

in defense of freedom and [in] defense of our nation. Being part of a medical system that provides hope to our war fighters, who often are called to go into harm’s way ... we provide an assurance that if they were to become wounded, we’d be there for them. I don’t think there could be a more fulfilling mission.”

As part of their roles, both also advise their respective chiefs of operations and surgeons general. Bagby is stationed at Joint Base San Antonio in Texas but travels extensively to military hospitals, clinics, and stand-alone facilities under his supervision, which are spread throughout the country. Freedman is based at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and works on the development of future Navy expeditionary medical systems.

Throughout their military careers, they’ve also practiced dentistry in

“I felt I was part of a supportive group practice from the beginning, working side by side with specialists in the unique and high-tempo environment of the military. And it just brought me alive.”

—Brigadier General  
Shan K. Bagby



unique and challenging environments, such as on deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, in extreme temperatures, and on humanitarian missions to locations with limited equipment and facilities.

Freedman jokes: “You haven’t lived ’til you try to practice dentistry aboard a pitching and rolling ship. It’s all about a wide stance and making sure the chair doesn’t move.”

## Developing a Dual Career

**B**agby and Freedman both chose dentistry because, during their childhoods, they met people in the field who exposed them to its possibilities. But neither intended for the military to be a long-term gig.

“I grew up in an economically disadvantaged environment, and I didn’t have a lot of role models,” Bagby explains. “But I knew I didn’t want to be poor, and I knew I was smart enough to do something better than my circumstances and my environment showed me.”

He met an oral surgeon who volunteered at a local community health clinic, and their interactions inspired his future choices. “I said to myself, ‘I can do that.’ It’s one of the reasons I feel it’s very important to be an example for others—because it’s very difficult for young people to believe that they can be something they’ve never seen.”

Bagby used an ROTC (Reserve Officers’ Training Corps) scholarship to pursue a bachelor’s degree in physics from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. He then went on to dental school at the University of Pittsburgh,



simultaneously fulfilling his duties in the U.S. Army Reserve and working part time as a home health aide, a time he describes as “frenetic” but essential to becoming the person he is today.

“I had no intention of making the military a career. It was, for me, just an experience at the time. But I enjoyed the camaraderie, the environment of working on a team. And I did not want to go into private practice right away. I wanted to get my skills up,” he explains. “Then I discovered that staying in the military would provide me [with] opportunities to get a more advanced education. The military offered me opportunities that I essentially felt were in line with my values and my skill sets and my personality. And so I’ve stayed.”

Those opportunities included residency training at Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles, fellowship training in oral and maxillofacial trauma surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, and two master’s degrees (one in health care administration from Baylor University and one in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College).

Freedman had a somewhat similar experience, unexpectedly choosing military service.

While attending the University of Pittsburgh for his undergraduate studies in biology, he knew he wanted to pursue dentistry. “Pitt offered so many opportunities and made it so seamless that we could get involved as undergrads. As a student in the Dental Study Club, we got to go to the dental laboratory, work with handpieces, make impressions and models, actually do simulated restorations, and talk to dental students and faculty,” he says. “But the military piece was somewhat of a surprise.”

During his second year of dental school, “A recruiter visited and

explained the exciting opportunities for group practice, mentorship, education, [and] financial opportunities with scholarships and stipends, not to mention some really incredible duty stations. ... I have family with deep military ties, but I didn’t see myself serving in it until I had that interaction with that recruiter. And there were so many faculty at Pitt who were either former military or were still serving in the reserves, and I really had great opportunities to sit down with them and learn about their experiences.”

His original plan was to serve for four years, learn more, and then go into private practice. “I felt I was part of a supportive group practice from the beginning, working side by side with specialists in the unique and high-tempo environment of the military. And it just brought me alive.”

He stayed, too, taking advantage of continuous educational opportunities and the associated upward mobility, including completing a two-year residency, becoming involved in professional dental associations, earning a master’s degree in health sciences from George Washington University, and achieving a certificate in comprehensive dentistry from the Naval Postgraduate Dental School.

## Lessons Learned

As their careers advanced, both men were deployed, then came home to manage dental clinics and then entire hospitals and networks of hospitals. Now they’re responsible for thousands of health care professionals caring for millions of American service members in addition to billion-dollar budgets.

Separately, both men describe the key to their success with the exact same phrase: “Bloom where you’re planted.”



Bagby emphasizes the importance of being true to who you are and taking time for self-reflection and understanding why you do what you do. “Where I’ve thrived is in the understanding that technical abilities are important, but only to the degree that you’re able to meet the needs of others. I can teach anybody how to remove a third molar, but I can’t teach you how to care about the person in the chair,” he says. “So you have to be good at your craft, but you also have to know how to work with other people, to work as part of a team.”

Freedman says that his Pitt education is a major reason he was able to grow into his national leadership role, developing the medical systems of the future and supporting health care professionals in the military so they can be successful at saving lives in the future.

“I look back at the faculty of Pitt Dental Medicine and all the things that now we espouse and that we have names for: evidence-based education, high-velocity learning, covenant leadership—these are things Pitt was doing back then. The faculty at the school gave me a strong foundation of didactic work. It was incredibly collaborative and supportive,” Freedman says. “At the time, I didn’t know that’s how they were shaping me, and I didn’t know how it would influence my professional and leadership style. But it really was a profound experience. The instructors work to make sure they get the best out of you and then sometimes see more in you than you saw in yourself at the time.” ■



Laura Thomas (DMD '21) is pictured here with Capt. Patrick Fox (DMD '00) on board the USS Germantown.

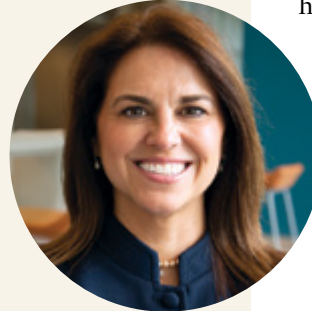
## Military Service Bonds Dental Medicine Faculty, Students

By Brian Conway

There's an unseen camaraderie that courses through American civic institutions that goes beyond patriotism. According to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, military veterans make up approximately 31% of the federal workforce. From the country's highest offices to its legions of civil servants, much of the unifying thread that ties this workforce together is rooted in the same camaraderie that is cultivated during military training.

“The experience [of serving] gave me a wonderful perspective on what a team can accomplish and how good it feels to be dedicated to a cause.”

—Marnie Oakley, Interim Dean and U.S. Navy Veteran



A similar cohesion winds its way through the halls and offices of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. While there’s no official count, a rough estimate is that one in five employees served in the military, and that culture of individuals working together in pursuit of a common goal manifests itself in the fellowship that exists among the faculty, staff and students at Pitt Dental Medicine.

“The military is an amazing platform for leadership skills,” says Marnie Oakley (DMD ’92), interim dean and a U.S. Navy veteran. “The experience [of serving] gave me a wonderful perspective on what a team can accomplish and how good it feels to be dedicated to a cause.

“I still love to feel that camaraderie and connection with folks,” she continues. “You feel that here with the Pitt Dental Medicine family.”

After graduating from Pitt Dental Medicine, Oakley joined the U.S. Navy and wed her husband, who served in a Marine expeditionary unit, and the couple and their growing family lived on bases throughout the country.

Oakley never considered a career in the military prior to dental school, and she wasn’t sure what to expect.

“I didn’t go in expecting a high-caliber professional program,” she admits, “and I couldn’t have been more wrong.”

What she encountered during her four years of active-duty service as a U.S. Navy dental officer were top-notch facilities staffed with colleagues who wanted nothing more than for her to receive the best training possible and to be the best dentist she could be.

Clinical Assistant Professor Nicholas Miniotis had a similar experience during his military service in the U.S. Air Force. As a commander, he was in a position to

make sure his charges and facilities were prepared for any situation they might encounter.

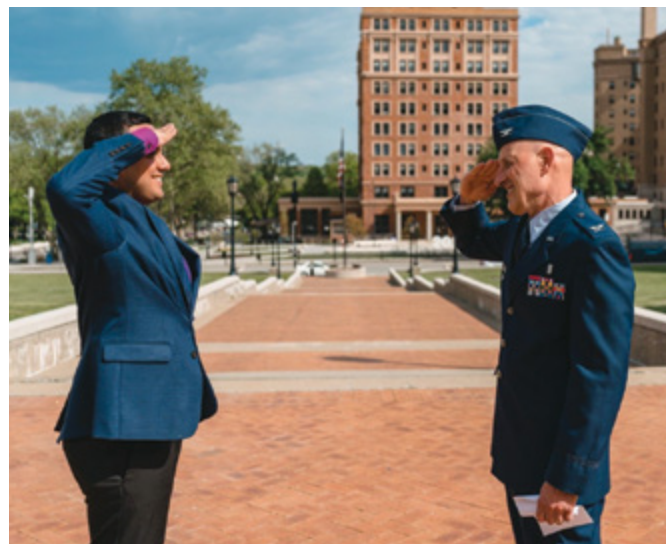
Born and raised in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, Miniotis moved 11 times over the course of his 30-year military career. He served as a squadron commander several times and rose to the rank of colonel. He was on the faculty of three different military dental residency programs and served as president of the American Board of General Dentistry.

Miniotis retired from the service in 2012, after which he worked at the Louisiana State University School of Dentistry in New Orleans. In 2017, he returned to Western Pennsylvania and joined the faculty of Pitt Dental Medicine.

“The military has the best training programs in the world,” he says.

“You travel the world, and you learn that the world is a lot smaller than you think. You work with people from different cultures; learn about their cultures; and become very, very comfortable with almost everybody, no matter where they’re from. That’s the environment of the dental school, too.

“Even if you’re born on the opposite side of the world [from Western Pennsylvania],” he continues, “you can find something in common. I wouldn’t have that



Pictured at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum is Pitt Dental Medicine Clinical Assistant Professor Nicholas Miniotis (right) administering the oath of office to Nikhil Manocha (left) upon his promotion to captain last year. Manocha had just completed his four-year DMD program at Pitt on a scholarship from the U.S. Air Force and now is stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base while completing his advanced education in general dentistry residency program.

perspective without my military experience.”

The Pitt Dental Medicine military legacy is one of extraordinary distinction, extending to the armed services’ most senior ranks. U.S. Army Brigadier General Shan K. Bagby (DMD ’93) serves as both chief of the U.S. Army Dental Corps and commanding general of the Regional Health Command - Central, the Army’s largest geographical medical region.

Long before he headed an organization of more than 21,000 medical professionals and staff, Bagby earned his DMD at the University of Pittsburgh. So did U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Rick Freedman, who received his DMD at Pitt in 1991. His later achievements include the Navy’s Legion of Merit and the Marine Corps Commendation Medal, among others. (See story on page 4 for more on Bagby and Freedman.)

There’s also U.S. Army Colonel Peter Guevara (DMD ’92), a Bronze Star awardee who serves as dean of the Army Postgraduate Dental School. Guevara was recognized as a

Distinguished Alumnus this year. (See page 18 for more on Guevara.)

This outstanding legacy of service inspires up-and-coming students to reach their own potential and outlines a well-trodden path that provides leadership and professional training.

Just ask current Pitt dental student Elizabeth “Ela” Siok. Siok was an undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh when a chance meeting with an Air Force recruiter provided her with a new option she had not yet considered when it came to financing her dental training.

Siok admits to being “a little freaked out about the cost” of dental school, so hearing about the scholarship opportunities offered by the military’s Health Professions Scholarship Program provided her with a very big benefit for enlisting.

The fateful decision to join the Air Force introduced her to now-retired Pitt Dental Medicine faculty member Robert Engelmeier (DMD ’70), an Air Force veteran. Engelmeier noticed the high number of dental students who were going into the military and sought to share with them his own wealth of

experience gained during years in the Air Force.

Thus was born the Tau Sigma Military Dental Club.

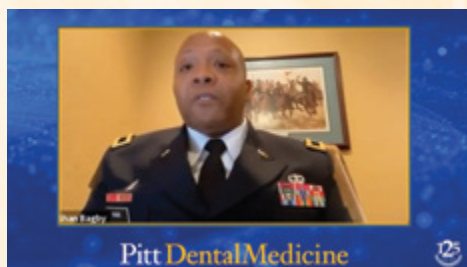
Founded by Engelmeier in 2012, Tau Sigma is a club for military-sponsored dental students that serves to educate and prepare them for their active-duty commitments. Through Tau Sigma, students become familiar with all aspects of their future military life via workshops and presentations from reservists who were recently deployed and alumni who have retired from their own military careers.

“I’m paired with like-minded individuals who share the same life trajectory I chose. It makes me feel more comfortable being with people who selected the same career path that I did,” says Siok.

That sentiment must be popular among her peers, as there are now 28 Tau Sigma chapters nationwide.

Tau Sigma member Jasmine Gonzales grew up outside Los Angeles and came to Pitt Dental Medicine after completing her undergraduate studies at San Diego State University.

## Pitt Dental Medicine History Living Our Legacy Honoring Our Legacy of Service



To learn more about the amazing military dental professionals featured in this issue, please watch our panel discussion about Pitt Dental Medicine’s long history of military service.

[pi.tt/legacyofservice](http://pi.tt/legacyofservice)



Despite her initial concerns about moving cross-country to a city she had never visited before, “I fell in love with the school and the family aspect of it,” she says.

Gonzales had wanted to be a dentist all her life, and during her time as an undergraduate, she gained valuable dental experience working at student-run free dental clinics that often saw military veterans as patients.

And although Gonzales’ grandfather had served in the Air Force, she never imagined herself serving in the military.

“I wanted to serve, but I thought, ‘I can’t fight! I’m this girly-girl!’ The thought that I can bring dentistry into it is so cool. I can serve other people and my country. And knowing my next years are set has given me stability. Now I’m focused on my grades and practicing my hand skills. It allows me to focus on being the best dentist I can be.”

It wasn’t long before Gonzales came around to camaraderie, the word already heard so often. “The camaraderie is crazy,” she says. “All these people are like a family. You can grow so much from it.”

Cameron Isaac, current president of Tau Sigma, grew up in Rochester, New York. His fellow club members credit him with keeping the charter Tau Sigma club going following the retirement of Engelmeier and leading it through the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We have a sense of community here,” he explains. “It’s nice that we have a lot of veteran faculty and graduates who are in their [general practice residency] here at the school that we can reach out to for advice.”

Isaac says that Tau Sigma raised \$2,000 for homeless veterans last year as part of its annual fundraising efforts. The group also organized a spin class for charity, led by Oakley, and looks to shore up its membership with each incoming class.

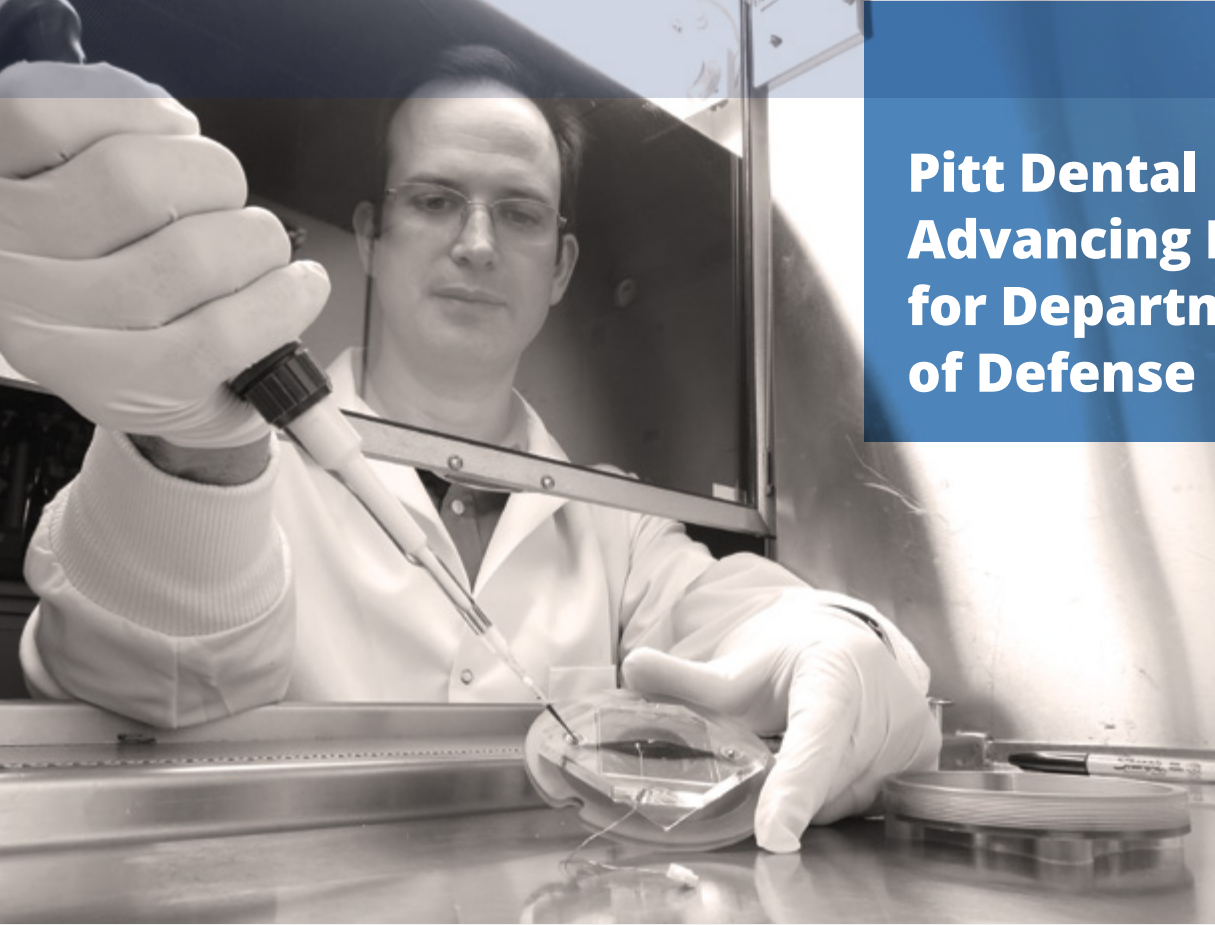
Both Oakley and Tau Sigma are advocating for a military corner somewhere within the School of Dental Medicine’s physical space, a small location to hold swearing-in ceremonies, recognize the accomplishments of those who came before them, and serve as an embodiment of the camaraderie that continues to drive the institution to pursue its highest ideals. ■

“We have a sense of community here. It’s nice that we have a lot of veteran faculty and graduates who are in their [general practice residency] here at the school that we can reach out to for advice.”

— Cameron Isaac, Pitt Dental Medicine Class of 2024



Pitt Dental Medicine Tau Sigma students, left to right, Lauren Wiles, U.S. Navy; Ara Herrera, U.S. Army; Cameron Isaac, U.S. Navy; Ela Siok, U.S. Air Force; and Jasmine Gonzales, U.S. Navy



## Pitt Dental Medicine Advancing Research for Department of Defense

By Brian Conway

Pitt Dental Medicine  
Associate Professor  
Juan Taboas in his lab

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) supports many research endeavors in the medical field. Over the past few years, the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine has received a number of grants from DOD, allowing its researchers to delve deeper into and perhaps even solve some medical problems that affect members of the military.

Juan Taboas, associate professor in the Pitt Dental Medicine Department of Oral and Craniofacial Sciences, has received two such important DOD grants for novel research into the regeneration of craniofacial and skeletal tissues.

In September 2021, Taboas and Associate Professor Alejandro Almarza were awarded a two-year \$722,000 DOD grant to develop a novel antimicrobial regenerative therapy for bone injuries. Their collaborators include Andrew Draganski of Zylö Therapeutics, Joshua Nosanchuk of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and Erik Weitzel of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research.

“[Through our research,] we sought to start promoting regenerative bone growth right away and address the critical problem of contamination of wounds in the battlefield,” says Taboas. “The problem is that if a [battlefield] injury is not treated right away, it allows bacteria to start infecting the wound site, and as they grow, you have an infection. And it’s very hard to eliminate bone infections.”

Previously, Taboas was awarded a \$2.1 million grant from DOD for research into a bone regeneration device for compromised wounds. The research performed in this effort involved hydrogels, which are hydrophilic polymer networks used to promote tissue regeneration.

Additionally, in December 2021, Taboas and Pitt Dental Medicine Clinical Associate Professor Herbert Ray received a \$100,000 grant

from Renaissance Health Service Corporation and Delta Dental Institute for research into Vital-Dent, a revitalizing root canal implant for root canal therapy-treated teeth.

“This therapy study focuses on pulp regeneration. But the bridge between the two [research studies]

is that we use the same hydrogel platform technology to deliver drugs to injured bones, to assist in bone regeneration, and to improve regeneration of tissues after endodontic therapies,” says Taboas.

Taboas has been a faculty member at Pitt Dental Medicine since 2010 and began his tenured position in 2011. He immediately began to apply his regenerative medicine and engineering skill set toward solving research questions in dental medicine.



Herbert Ray

# Bridging Our Proud Past to a Bright Future

Celebrating 125 Years of Improving Oral Health through Education, Patient Care and Innovative Research

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine celebrated its 125th anniversary on Oct. 7, 2022, with a reception for the Pitt Dental Medicine community at The Oaklander Hotel. The celebration included the premiere of a special anniversary video, "Bridging Our Proud Past to a Bright Future."

You can view the video on the Pitt Dental Medicine YouTube channel at [pi.tt/125anniversaryvideo](https://pi.tt/125anniversaryvideo)

See photos from the event on the Pitt Dental Medicine Flickr site at [pi.tt/125anniversaryphotos](https://pi.tt/125anniversaryphotos)



Our Pitt Dental Medicine 125th Anniversary E-Book may be viewed at [pittedental125.com](https://pittedental125.com)



## Message from the Dental Alumni Association President



Welcome to the winter issue of Pitt Dental Medicine magazine. Many events have taken place this year. The sixth annual Pitt Day of Giving was held on Feb. 22. It has become the largest University-wide

initiative in celebration of Pitt's founding, and this year was again successful for the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine.

The DMD Classes of 2024 and 2026, together with the dental hygiene Class of 2024, celebrated their White Coat Ceremonies. See page 24 for more on these meaningful events. The annual Dean's Scholarship Ball (see page 18) was held at the Senator John Heinz History Center on March 26 to honor distinguished alumni and students who have received the Dean's Scholarship. The event is always a tremendous success. And we celebrated the Pitt Dental Medicine alumni weekend Sept. 16-18.

The theme of this issue is service in its many different shapes and forms. First and foremost, we honor those who have

served and continue to serve as dental professionals in the military. We graciously thank you for your service. This issue highlights several individuals you may know, including Rick Freedman (DMD '91) and Shan Bagby (DMD '93). For more about them and many other military dentists, please see the stories that begin on page 4.

This year has allowed us to see a slow return to normal. We can celebrate our service to current students through the annual Senior Dinner and Women in Dentistry Luncheon, both of which resumed this year. Participating in student mentoring events and activities is one of the greatest benefits I have as Dental Alumni Association president. I enjoy hosting aspiring pre-dental and dental students in my practice through shadowing and summer internships.

As a member of the Class of 2012, I was fortunate to celebrate my 10-year reunion this year and reflect on the past decade in the dental profession. I appreciate the privilege of being able to serve our community in so many ways, such as volunteering for Mission of Mercy (MOM) Pittsburgh. This free dental care event is a great way to participate in community service and this year took place on Aug. 5 and 6. I encourage you to participate in future MOM events.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

—Mahatma Gandhi

Over the past decade, I have been fortunate enough to study with, work with, and be a friend to someone I considered to be a model citizen who always seemed to do things the right way. My classmate, colleague, and best friend, Albert Lin (DMD '12), fought brain cancer for 10 years and recently completed his journey on this earth. He served as a pillar of his community, not only providing quality dental care to those in need but also serving as a youth leader in his church. He was always available to all kids who sought his advice or help. Until his last breath, he maintained his bright and contagious smile and promised to be there for his church group as well as his family and friends. Thank you, brother, for everything you've done for the profession, your patients, your family, your wife, and your friends.

**Samir Singh** (DMD '12)  
President, Dental Alumni Association

### UNIVERSITY DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

## Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Service

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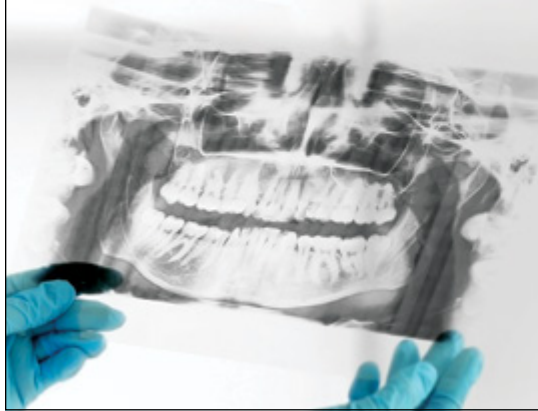
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**PittDentalMedicine**



# Enamel 10 Symposium

The Tenth International Symposium on Dental Enamel was held at the University of Pittsburgh May 8-10, 2022. This international event began in London in 1964 and brings together researchers from many diverse fields of study representing various career levels who are working in the field of dental enamel research to engage in open discussion and an exchange of ideas.

This year's event was coordinated by Elia Beniash and Alexandre Vieira, professors at the Pitt School of Dental Medicine, and Pamela Den Besten, professor at the University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry.

The goals of Enamel 10 are to critically address significant advances in enamel research; to encourage communication and collaboration among attendees from clinical, basic, and translational science disciplines; and to encourage the involvement of new investigators, minorities, women, and persons with disabilities in the growing area of research.

The event was sponsored by Pitt Dental Medicine, the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH/NIDCR), Colgate-Palmolive Company, GSK, SCANCO Medical AG, and Frontiers in Physiology.

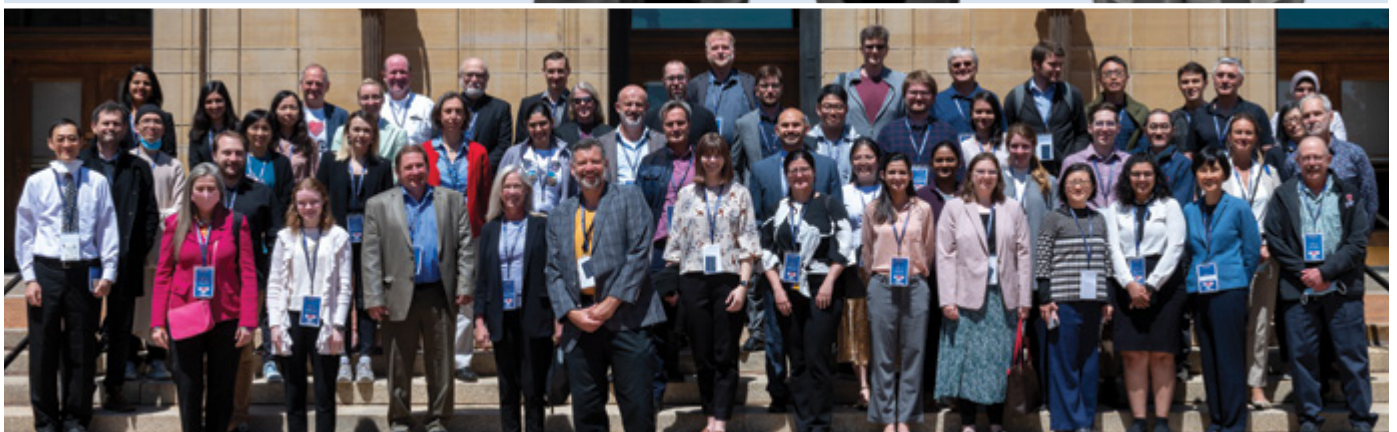
This international event brings together researchers from many diverse fields of study representing various career levels who are working in the field of dental enamel research to engage in open discussion and an exchange of ideas.

Several members of the Pitt Dental Medicine Department of Oral and Craniofacial Sciences received a New Investigator Award at Enamel 10. Funds for this award come from the NIH/NIDCR grant R13DE029398.

**Mariana Bezamat**, assistant professor  
**Ai Thu Bui**, postdoctoral associate  
**Claire Gabe**, postdoctoral associate  
**Mairobys Socorro**, postdoctoral associate  
**Brent Vasquez**, student



Enamel 10 was made possible through the dedication and coordination of, left to right, Alexandre Vieira, professor, Pitt Dental Medicine; Pamela Den Besten, professor, University of California, San Francisco; and Elia Beniash, professor, Pitt Dental Medicine.





## Alumni Give Back

By Brian Conway

There is an ancient Greek proverb that says, “Society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.” No matter the source or the form it takes, the idea of past generations sowing the seeds of opportunity for future generations is indeed a mark of selfless virtue. At the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, sowing the seeds of opportunity for future generations is indeed a mark of selfless virtue. Here, we shine a spotlight on two extraordinary Pitt Dental Medicine alumni, who for their own unique and special reasons have decided to generously bestow upon their alma mater and provide an opportunity to inspire those who will in turn plant trees for subsequent generations. These are their stories:



### Transforming Tragedy into Change

**Omar Abubaker** (DMD '90, PhD '94) was raised in Libya and went into dentistry following the advice of his father, who worked as a mechanic in a medical clinic. “He said, ‘Work with your hands. No one can ever take away from you that craft or skill,’” Abubaker recalls.

After high school, Abubaker left Libya to study dentistry at Alexandria University in Egypt but returned home to begin his professional career at a new dental clinic in Benghazi. At the time, he recalls, relations between the United States and Libya were friendly, and faculty exchanges and collaborations were not uncommon. In fact, one such exchange changed the course of his career.

While he was working in Benghazi, Abubaker met University of Pittsburgh professor W. Harry Archer (DDS '27), who was visiting Libya at the time. The two traveled together, visiting the ruins of ancient cities along the Mediterranean coast, and formed a kinship.

At Archer’s urging, Abubaker immigrated to Southwestern Pennsylvania in 1978 to continue his professional journey, beginning with months of intensive English language classes to bolster his proficiency. Abubaker completed his PhD residency and a postdoc fellowship, got married, and started a family in Pittsburgh. In 1991, the family moved to Virginia, and today Abubaker serves as professor and chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry.

Abubaker was one of the leading voices in his field when, in 2014, the course of his life was irrevocably altered by the tragic passing of his son, Adam. The story is one that is all too common and frequent: Adam became addicted to opiates following shoulder surgery and died from an overdose less than a year later.

In the following months, after the immediate shock began to fade, Abubaker realized how little he knew about addiction as a layperson, let alone someone with a prominent role as a health care provider at a major university.

“I had no idea you could get addicted to prescriptions so easily,” he says. “At the time, there was nothing in the dental school curriculum that included addiction and how people get addicted.”

Abubaker soon was hard at work taking online graduate programs for certifications on addiction studies, neuroanatomy, and pharmacology. He then put his new education into action, making modifications to the dental school curriculum so that oral surgeons and dental students could receive additional training on addiction and pain management, with a focus on chemical dependence prevention—a revolutionary measure that went on to inspire similar action at other top universities, including Pitt.

The Pain Care Pledge is a central philosophy of Pitt Dental Medicine and signifies a radical shift in awareness in the way modern doctors discuss and prescribe medication. Abubaker found an ally in the development and implementation of the Pain Care Pledge in former Dean Bernard J. Costello, who has made responsible pain management a priority for the University and urges professionals to not only take the pledge but also adopt the Guidelines for Prescribing Pain Medications and demonstrate a commitment to the ethical standards they establish.

“I’m so proud that it’s my alma mater that’s doing so much,” Abubaker says.

Over the past several years, Abubaker has spoken to hundreds of organizations to inform them of the risks involved in opioid prescriptions, and he has made a habit of donating his speaking fees and honoraria back to the institutions and organizations he addresses—so that they can use the money to update their curriculum and methods—rather than making a profit from his advocacy.

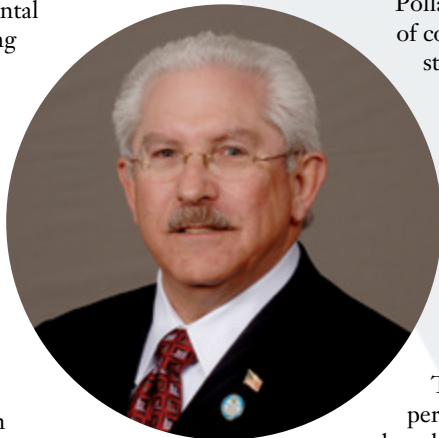
And there is progress being made. According to Abubaker, in 2013, 99% of dentists prescribed opioids for patients recovering from wisdom teeth removal, with the majority prescribing 20 or more pills. A 2021 survey indicates that the percentage is now down to about 60%, with the majority of those prescriptions reduced to 12 or fewer pills.

Now a scholarship in memory of Adam Abubaker will be awarded yearly to a Pitt Dental Medicine student who is pursuing research related to addiction.

“I want to do something for the place that gave me the opportunity I had,” Abubaker says.

He is proud to support his alma mater and professionals working together to stem the tide of the ongoing opioid epidemic, which can impact anyone. His work transforming tragedy into positive change across the dental profession serves as a reminder of the enduring power of the human spirit.

*To learn more about the Pain Care Pledge, please visit [dental.pitt.edu/pain-care-pledge](https://dental.pitt.edu/pain-care-pledge).*



## Paying It Forward

**Lee Pollan** (DMD '71) grew up in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, the son of a dentist father and a high school guidance counselor mother.

“I realized my father had a rewarding career,” he reminisces, and he decided to follow the same path despite some early interest in going to medical school.

Pollan’s mother helped him to narrow down his choice of colleges to a handful, and the University of Pittsburgh stood out from the rest. As an undergrad, Pollan quickly made friends in both the Pitt marching band and Alpha Omega, the Jewish dental fraternity.

But upon taking the dental aptitude tests in 1967, he had an unfortunate realization: “I was in the deep end of the pool,” he chuckles. “I couldn’t mail it in anymore. I knew to do well, I’d have to work very, very hard. So I worked my tail off.”

Pollan spent his evenings studying alongside a young woman whom he later would wed.

The partnership paid off professionally as well as personally, and his grades continued to rise throughout dental school. He later completed an oral/maxillofacial surgery residency at Georgetown University. For Pollan, leaving Pennsylvania was a tough decision.

“I loved Pittsburgh,” he says. “The city, the vibe, all the opportunities one had here. But I was willing to give D.C. a try.”

After his residency, Pollan served two years in the U.S. Army before entering private practice in Rochester, New York, where for 47 years he worked, taught and volunteered, including serving as president of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

“I firmly believe that you need to give back. University, society, community, synagogue or church: God has been good enough to me to be somewhat successful. And I always have a warm spot in my heart for Pitt and the opportunities I had there.”

After his wife, Arlene, passed away in September 2016, Pollan revised his will to include a gift to the University of Pittsburgh. But, he wondered, why wait until after his own passing for his gift to start having an impact?

“Having been in academia, I know a lot of residents, by and large, graduate with hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt. I want a fourth-year dental student to reap the benefits, and I want to be there to see the reward.” So Pollan made a gift that established the Arlene B. and Lee D. Pollan Dental Student Award for Excellence in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery scholarship to help.

Today, Pollan resides in Lakewood Ranch, Florida, and remembers his time in Oakland: “I fondly remember the O,” he says, referring to Essie’s Original Hot Dog Shop on Forbes Avenue. “That was great prep for an all-nighter. You have a couple O dogs, and you’re good for the night.” Aware that the O closed in 2020 during the pandemic, he asks what so many alumni (and current students) still wonder: “How could they do that to me?”

*To learn more about supporting Pitt Dental Medicine, the Adam Abubaker Memorial Fund, or the Arlene B. and Lee D. Pollan Dental Student Award for Excellence in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, please contact Matt Hiser at [mab377@pitt.edu](mailto:mab377@pitt.edu).*

# Dean's Scholarship Ball

The 22nd annual University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Dean's Scholarship Ball was held on March 26, 2022, at the Senator John Heinz History Center. Dean's Scholarship recipients from the Classes of 2024, 2025, and 2026—Kareem Ahmed, Sherese Brown, Sonia Chemerisov, Cassia Clayton, and Minahil Sami—were recognized at the event.

Save the Date to join us for the 2023 Dean's Scholarship Ball on March 25 at the Heinz History Center.



The 2022 Dean's Scholarship Ball was attended by nearly 160 guests and raised more than \$65,000 in support of student scholarships. Pitt Dental Medicine would like to acknowledge the event's sponsors: UPMC; The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.; and United Concordia Dental.



To see photos from the Dean's Scholarship Ball, please visit our Flickr Site at [tinyurl.com/PittDentalMedicine](https://www.flickr.com/photos/pitt_dental_medicine/).



## Honoring Distinguished Alumni

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Distinguished Alumni

Awards program was founded in 1965 to recognize dental alumni who have brought recognition to Pitt and the School of Dental Medicine through their contributions to society and the profession. Distinguished Alumni are recognized during the Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball.

Each of these recipients has demonstrated a commitment to service and excellence within the field of dentistry; made contributions within their community that have gone above and beyond what is normally expected; and exemplified the highest professional standards, which have significantly aided and advanced the art of dentistry and patient care.

Due to the pandemic, no Distinguished Alumni honorees were selected in 2021.

### Peter H. Guevara (DMD '92) 2020 Distinguished Alumnus

After graduating from Saint Vincent College, Peter Guevara enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, where he completed his DMD in 1992. He then earned a certificate in general practice dentistry and completed a hospital dentistry fellowship at UPMC Montefiore. He is a master in the Academy of General Dentistry, a diplomate of the American Board of General Dentistry, a member of the Omicron Kappa Upsilon national dental honor society, and a fellow of the International College of Dentists and American College of Dentists.

Guevara began his military career in 1993 with an appointment to the U.S. Army Reserve and began active duty in 1994. Throughout his career, he has held assignments with the 82nd Airborne Division, 3rd Special Forces Group, and is a fully qualified paratrooper and senior-rated jumpmaster. His career has included operational deployments to Bosnia and Nigeria as well as combat deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. In 2007, Guevara left active duty to teach at Pitt Dental Medicine and serve as a member of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard before returning to active duty in 2009, when he was appointed assistant director of the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program and officer in charge of Kuhn Dental Clinic at Fort Campbell in Kentucky. In 2012, he was appointed director of the AEGD program at Schofield Barracks, and he assumed the role of chief of Army graduate dental education and dean of the Army Postgraduate Dental School in 2017. He still holds the position of dean but has served primarily as U.S. Army Dental Corps branch-specific proponent officer since 2020.

Each of these recipients has demonstrated a commitment to service and excellence within the field of dentistry, made contributions within their community, and exemplified the highest professional standards.



From left: Bernard J. Costello, former dean, with Distinguished Alumni honorees Peter H. Guevara, Diane D. Romaine and Theresa A. Heaton

**Diane D. Romaine (DMD '95)**  
**2020 Distinguished Alumna**

Diane Romaine is a master in the Academy of General Dentistry; received her International Masters for Health Leadership from McGill University; and has practiced in Frostburg, Maryland, since earning her DMD at Pitt Dental Medicine in 1995. She consistently exemplifies an unparalleled commitment to service, passion for excellence, and outstanding leadership.

Recognized by her colleagues as a fellow in the American College of Dentists and International College of Dentists, Romaine serves on Maryland's Oral Health Task Force and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Committee. She is past president of the Maryland State Dental Association (MSDA), MSDA Foundation, and Allegany-Garrett County Dental Society.

In 2010, Romaine established the first ongoing Mission of Mercy dental clinic in Maryland, and to date it has delivered more than \$22 million in free dental services to the underinsured and those with dental needs who otherwise cannot afford care. She has been a leading advocate of the Maryland Adult Dental Medicaid Waiver Program, which provides a dental benefit to 38,000 dual Medicaid/Medicare-eligible adults across Maryland.

As a dean's faculty educator at both West Virginia University School of Dentistry and the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, Romaine continues to promote the value of service in rural areas to the next generation of oral care professionals. In addition to her

practice, Romaine serves as a Fourth District delegate to the American Dental Association (ADA) and on ADA's National Elder Care Advisory Committee.

**Theresa A. Heaton (DMD '05)**  
**2022 Distinguished Alumna**

As a Pitt Dental Medicine DMD student, Theresa Heaton was actively involved in the student community, serving as her class president and house manager for the Pitt chapter of Delta Sigma Delta. She worked tirelessly while in dental school, coordinating with the dental schools of the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, West Virginia University, and Case Western Reserve University to bring the Western Regional Examining Board to the East Coast for the first time as an option for licensure. She has remained actively involved with Pitt Dental Medicine by attending events, coordinating class reunions, and serving as a Pitt Career Network volunteer.

After graduating from Pitt Dental Medicine, Heaton went on to serve in the U.S. Army Dental Corps, where she served as a dental officer at bases throughout the southern United States. She has worked on humanitarian missions following Hurricane Katrina and volunteered with U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy dental units as a primary care provider during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In 2020, Heaton worked with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and her clinic became one of the first dental facilities to offer vaccination and testing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Theresa A. Heaton Scholarship Fund supports students directly associated with the U.S. armed forces who require financial assistance. To learn more about how to support this fund, please contact Matt Hiser at [mah377@pitt.edu](mailto:mah377@pitt.edu).



# Rock Their Socks

**O**n March 21, 2022, the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine and the Pitt student chapter of the American Academy of Developmental Medicine & Dentistry (AADMD) recognized World Down Syndrome Day. March 21 (3/21) is a symbolic date because people with Down syndrome have three copies of chromosome 21.

To recognize this day, students and faculty convened for the annual Rock Your Socks event, which encourages people to wear zany, fun, brightly colored socks to raise awareness and celebrate community members with Down syndrome.

Pitt Dental Medicine students actively support John's Crazy Socks, a company started by John, a man with Down syndrome, and his father. The company donates 5% of its profits to Special Olympics and employs many people with disabilities.

The Pitt student chapter of AADMD is committed to learning about ways to improve health care for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Members are involved in events to learn more about providing effective and personalized care, such as oral hygiene demonstrations, lectures from self-advocates and organizations such as Achieva, and local Special Olympics events. Although many of these activities have been restricted for the past two years due to the pandemic, in-person Special Olympics activities are resuming, and AADMD members once again are involved. During these events, student members provide volunteer hours while also having a great time interacting with the Special Olympics athletes and fostering friendships.

The Pitt student chapter of AADMD is committed to learning about ways to improve health care for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.







# Something to Smile About

**G**ive Kids a Smile Day is an annual event that provides children with free necessary dental care. Poor oral health can have a significant impact on a child's overall health, yet research suggests that dental care is the most common unmet health care need among American children.

Last year, four days were designated as Give Kids a Smile Days at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine pediatric dentistry clinic, during which 37 patients received \$7,100 in free dental care. Many patients also made future and follow-up appointments. For many of these patients, the Pediatric Dental Care Fund will cover 50% of the cost of their future dental treatment. Since its inception in 2018, the Pediatric Dental Care Fund has provided more than \$46,000 in free dental care to uninsured children.



Pictured above, left to right, are Pediatric Dentistry faculty members Deborah Studen-Pavlovich, Edward Korenman, Maurielle Stacy, and Ana Rodriguez.

“This is something that really warms my heart and is one of my proudest accomplishments. I am very happy that alumni, staff, and faculty continue to support this fund,” says Deborah Studen-Pavlovich, professor and interim chair of the

Department of Pediatric Dentistry, who was instrumental in getting the fund started.

If you would like to support the Pediatric Dental Care Fund or wish to learn about more ways to support the Pitt Dental Medicine Department of Pediatric Dentistry, please contact Matt Hiser at [mah377@pitt.edu](mailto:mah377@pitt.edu).

# White Coat Ceremony

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) Class of 2024 held its White Coat Ceremony on March 5, 2022. After the pandemic delayed this ceremony for two years, the Class of 2024 finally walked through this significant transition—an exciting beginning for each student.

The White Coat Ceremony for the DMD Class of 2026 and the dental hygiene Class of 2024 was held on Aug. 26, 2022.

Pitt Dental Medicine is excited to formally welcome all three of these classes to the school.



The White Coat Ceremony receives support in part from the Harry K. Zohn (DMD '84) and Cecile A. Feldman, DMD, White Coat Endowment Fund as well as from contributions from alumni and friends. If you would like to support the White Coat Ceremony, please contact Matt Hiser at [mah377@pitt.edu](mailto:mah377@pitt.edu).

To see photos and videos or to download programs from these events, please visit [dental.pitt.edu/white-coat-ceremony](http://dental.pitt.edu/white-coat-ceremony).



## Faculty and Staff News of Note

**Joanne Prasad**, associate professor and assistant dean for academic affairs, was one of the recipients of the School of Medicine 2022

Clerkship Preceptor of the

Year Award. Her

recognition was for

a Specialty Care

Clerkship that

was developed

in the School

of Dental

Medicine to

provide Pitt

medical students

with a better

understanding

of dental and oral

health. The clerkship began in

May 2021, bringing med students

to Salk Hall to rotate through

various dental clinics, including the

emergency department, Center

for Patients with Special Needs,

and oral surgery. A similar program

for dental students has been

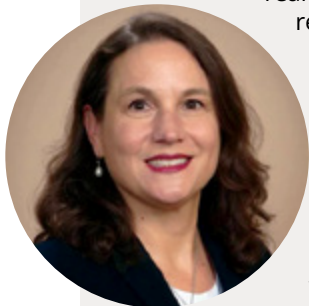
developed in the medical school.

Nina Markovic, Pitt Dental Medicine

associate professor, acts as the

dental clerkship coordinator for

the program.



**Anchal Malik**, Pitt Dental Medicine assistant professor, participated in the American Heart Association panel Women of Color and Heart Disease on March 26, 2022. Malik represented the oral and dental health care provider's

perspective on the panel. The discussion highlighted

important data on heart disease risk for women of

color, including that cardiovascular disease kills nearly

50,000 African American women annually and that nearly 50% of African

American women ages 20 and older have heart disease.

At the 2022 American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Annual

Session & Exhibition in Philadelphia, Malik was the recipient of an Oculus

Quest 2 virtual reality system as part of the ADEA Quest contest.



**Kelly Wagner** (top right), Dental Hygiene Program director, and **Melanie Reyes** (bottom right), senior project manager in the Pitt Dental Medicine Office of the Dean, began the Doctorate of Education

Program in Pitt's School of Education in May 2022. The

program's focus is in higher education, which integrates

a leadership focus and management skills within a

framework that explores the systems and processes

that drive education, specifically the higher education

system. The program also focuses on standards that

reflect institutional effectiveness; strategic planning,

and developing leaders prepared with skills to lead

highly functional; collaborative teams within higher

education.



### Taiclet Wins Education Award

**L**ynne Taiclet (DMD '85), director of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Center for Patients with Special Needs and assistant professor, was the 2022 recipient of the Special Care Dentistry Association Education Award, which honors teachers who educate oral health care providers to care for individuals with special health care needs.

"Receiving this award from such an elite and specialized group of educators and professionals is an honor. Over the past 12-plus years, I have received advice and mentorship from the members of this organization, which has helped me to improve our curriculum for the treatment of individuals with special health care needs," Taiclet says.



# Conference Receptions

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine will hold receptions in conjunction with the following events. These receptions are free and open to Pitt Dental Medicine alumni, faculty, students, residents, and friends.

## 2023

**February 17: Winter Academy**  
Ritz-Carlton, Naples, Florida

**March 25: Dean's Scholarship Ball**  
Senator John Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh

**April: Alumni Reception at American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) Conference**  
Chicago, Illinois

**May 20: School of Dental Medicine Commencement Ceremony**

**Nov. 2-5: American College of Prosthodontists Annual Session**  
Austin, Texas

## 2024

**April: AAO Annual Meeting**  
Chicago, Illinois

**May: American Association of Endodontists (AAE) Annual Meeting**  
Chicago, Illinois

**May 25-28: American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Annual Session**  
Orlando, Florida

For more information about upcoming alumni receptions and events, please visit [dental.pitt.edu/125](https://dental.pitt.edu/125) or contact Alexandra Rigby at [amr276@pitt.edu](mailto:amr276@pitt.edu).

## UNIVERSITY DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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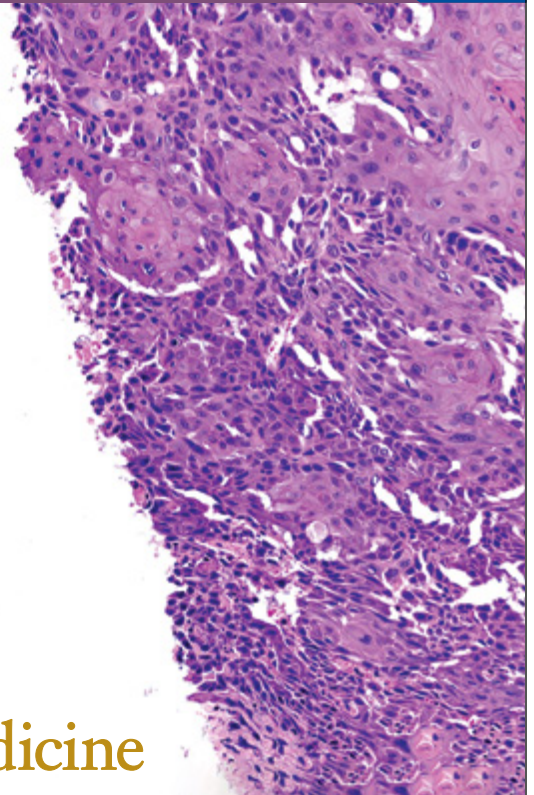
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**Pitt Dental Medicine**



# In Memoriam

## 1940s

**John P. Scullin** (DDS '47), Jan. 29, 2022

## 1950s

**John R. Clark** (DDS '58), Nov. 18, 2021

**Walter P. Eckstein** (DDS '56), Sept. 27, 2021

**Jack C. Garcia** (DDS '58), June 9, 2022

**Edward A. Gaydos** (DDS '57), Aug. 9, 2021

**Terry E. McRoberts** (DDS '57), July 16, 2022

**John R. Mumma** (DDS '53), April 23, 2022

**Harry A. Osborne** (DDS '59), Jan. 16, 2022

**Nicholas Passodelis** (DDS '59, MS '67), Oct. 21, 2021

**Morton A. Seltman** (DDS '51), July 11, 2022

**George P. Spine** (DDS '58), May 2, 2022

**Carl N. Taylor** (DDS '58), Aug. 26, 2021

**Edward Tirpak** (DDS '54), Dec. 8, 2021

**Barrett C. Walker** (DDS '54), Jan. 20, 2022

## 1960s

**Perry I. Adelson** (DDS '64), July 12, 2022

**Raymond L. Ammer** (DDS '64), Nov. 21, 2021

**Nicholas R. Andolina** (DDS '66), April 18, 2022

**Joseph Samuel Azar** (DDS '60), July 16, 2021

**John R. Byrne** (DDS '61), Jan. 7, 2022

**Byron L. Clark** (DMD '68), Oct. 11, 2021

**Warren Reed Clark** (DDS '65), July 22, 2021

**Robert L. Coles** (DMD '67), Aug. 31, 2021

**William A. DelVecchio** (DMD '69), July 21, 2022

**Sheldon I. Gilbert** (DDS '62), Sept. 26, 2022

**Theodore P. Grabiak** (DDS '60), Sept. 27, 2021

**John L. Heibel Jr.** (DDS '63), Dec. 3, 2021

**Richard A. Johnson** (DDS '62), July 4, 2021

**Franklin D. Kuzy** (DMD '69), Feb. 14, 2022

**Donald P. Lavelly** (DDS '65), Dec. 3, 2021

**Marion Painter MacIntosh** (DH '63), May 6, 2022

**Arthur E. Naval** (DMD '69), Nov. 15, 2021

**Sharyn Uhl Sadler** (DH '68), Aug. 10, 2021

**Richard R. Sambuchino** (DMD '67), Feb. 6, 2022

**Alvin P. Siegel** (DDS '60), Nov. 17, 2021

**Robert P. Smith** (DDS '60), Aug. 27, 2021

**Thomas Harold Strum** (DDS '61), July 17, 2022

**Francis Jerome Vaughan** (DDS '62), May 22, 2022

**James J. Wempa** (DDS '63), Dec. 27, 2021

## 1970s

**Gerard J. Barna** (DMD '74), July 29, 2021

**George B. Clark** (DMD '71), Dec. 14, 2021

**Kenneth P. Dick** (DMD '74), Jan. 18, 2022

**Carl Thomas Falatek** (DMD '78), Aug. 15, 2022

**Louis K. Fammartino** (DMD '72), Sept. 19, 2021

**David A. Gosnell** (DMD '73), Jan. 8, 2022

**John Edwards Griffith Jr.** (DMD '73), April 8, 2022

**Clement A. Guarlotti** (DMD '71), May 9, 2022

**Hak-Bae Lee** (DMD '70), Oct. 23, 2021

**Kenneth Bruce Roseman** (DMD '73), May 15, 2022

**David M. Skoff** (DMD '77), Dec. 25, 2021

**Robyn Walker Talbott** (DH '73), Dec. 25, 2021

**James O. Trainer Jr.** (DMD '77), Feb. 16, 2022

**James Thomas Wallace** (DMD '72), June 17, 2022

## 1980s

**Lawrence P. Picciano** (DMD '82), March 5, 2022

**David C. Picking** (DMD '85), Oct. 30, 2021

**Valerie A. Rebel Smith** (DH '80), Aug. 1, 2022

**Ronald J. Speranza** (DMD '87), Nov. 14, 2021

**Charles P. Tucker** (DMD '85), July 27, 2021

## 1990s

**Demetrios (Jim) Patrinos** (DMD '92), Oct. 2, 2022

## 2000s

**Albert Kao Lin** (DMD '12), April 30, 2022

## Faculty and Staff

**James Guggenheimer**, professor emeritus,  
Jan. 27, 2022

**Donald C. Kruper**, professor emeritus, Feb. 21, 2022

**Charles Ebert Oakley Jr.** (DDS '66), April 12, 2022

**Donald J. Pipko** (DDS '60, MDS '67), Aug. 2, 2021

**Edward Tirpak** (DDS '54), Dec. 8, 2021

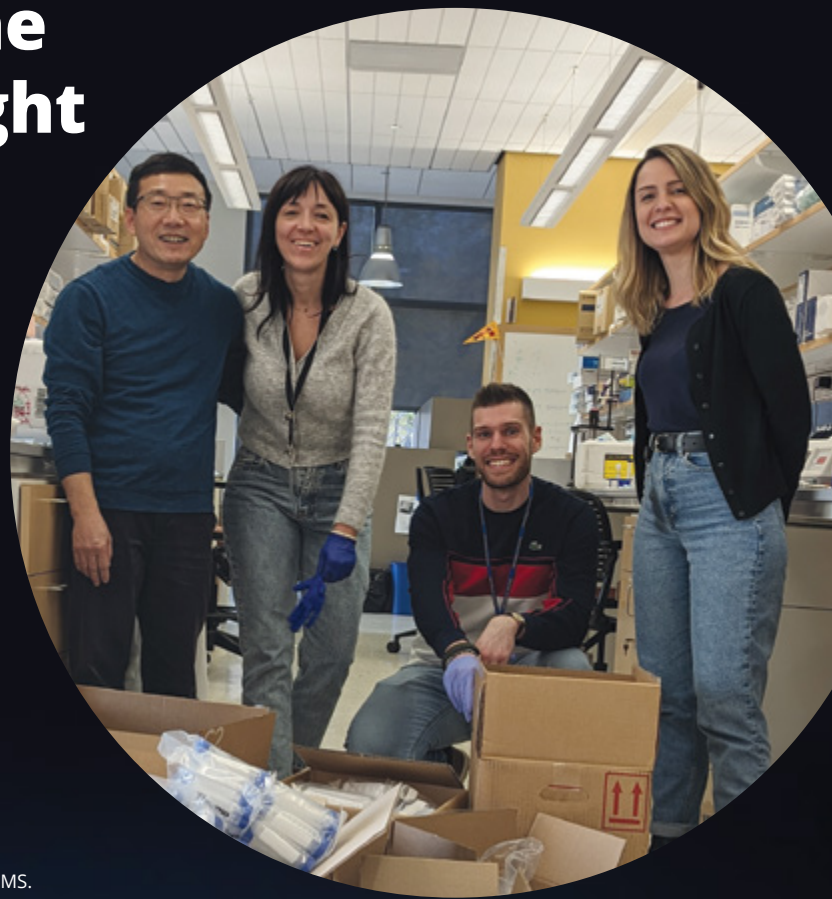
**Robert L. Vaughn** (DDS '55), March 12, 2022

# Pitt Dental Medicine IntiniLab Takes Flight on SpaceX

**O**n Nov. 22, 2022, a novel bone adhesive, developed here at Pitt Dental Medicine, was part of the SpaceX Commercial Resupply Services mission. Giuseppe Intini, associate professor in the Pitt Dental Medicine Department of Periodontics and Preventive Dentistry, in cooperation with RevBio, Inc., are testing a novel bone adhesive called Tetranite in the weightless environment of space.

To read more, please visit the NASA story at [issnationallab.org/iss360/spacex-crs-26-revbio-tetranite](https://issnationallab.org/iss360/spacex-crs-26-revbio-tetranite).

Pictured above, left to right, are IntiniLab members Xuehui Geng, MD, MS; Roberta Di Carlo, PhD; Luigi Mancinelli, PhD; and Taiana Campos Leite, DDS, MS.






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